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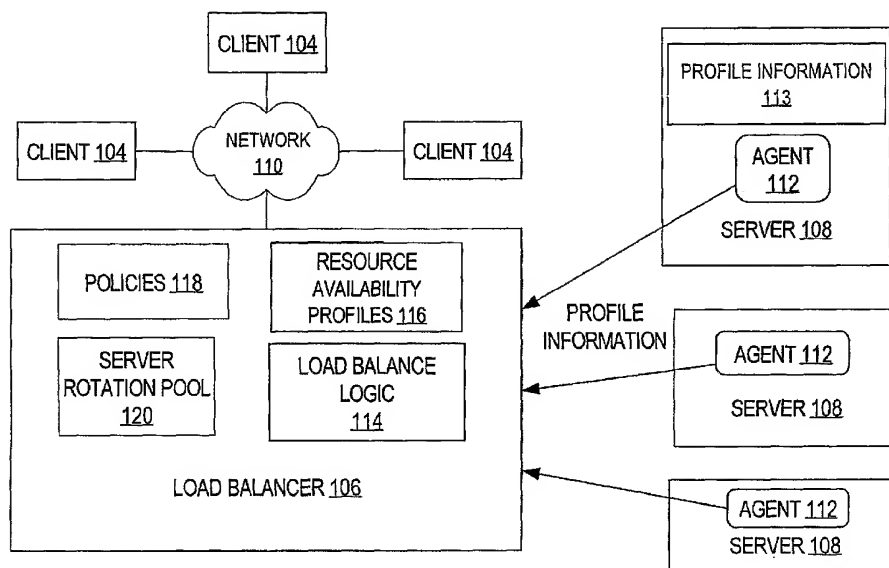
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LOAD BALANCING MECHANISM USING RESOURCE AVAILABILITY PROFILES



(57) Abstract: Resource availability profiles are received, wherein each resource availability profile describes a resource associated with a server. Each resource is assigned a plurality of weights corresponding to a plurality of policies. The weights are determined by, for each of the plurality of the policies, determining a weight for each resource based a given policy and selected information in the resource availability profiles corresponding to the resources. The method further comprises determining a policy from the plurality of the policies corresponding to a given a context associated with a connection request. A first of the load-balanced servers is selected for the connection request based on the weights assigned to the plurality of resources for the policy for the given context.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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USPC - 709/227

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
709/228, 229

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); Google

Search Terms Used: resource\$, profile\$, polic\$, weight\$, select\$, choos\$, pick\$, server\$, load\$, balanc\$, asymptotic\$, dynamic\$

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- Y	US 5,341,477 A (PITKIN et al.) 23 August 1994 (23.08.1994), entire document	1, 4-6, 8-13, 15-25, 27-29 ----- 2-3, 7, 14, 26
Y	US 6,785,889 B1 (WILLIAMS) 31 August 2004 (31.08.2004), col 18, ln 47 to col 19, ln 10	2-3, 14, 26
Y	US 2005/0015504 A1 (DORNE et al.) 20 January 2005 (20.01.2005), para [0015] and [0023]	7
A	US 6,658,473 B1 (BLOCK et al.) 02 December 2003 (02.12.2003)	1-29

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